

REMARKS

The following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 23, 2008. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to all outstanding rejections and/or objections, that they be withdrawn, and to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 17-21 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1 and 3-16 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 17-21 are being added. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 and 3-16 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeCharms (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0103429). Since Claims 1 and 3-16 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection becomes moot.

Applicants respectfully contend that none of the cited references or their combinations teaches or suggests the features recited in the independent claim 17 or its dependent claims. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

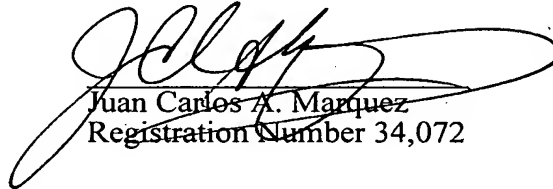
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the

prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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May 22, 2009

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